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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Long-term Conservation Legislation SB 606 and AB 1668 – Gain 30 percent potable reuse credit

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District), we would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with us on December 18 regarding your long-term conservation bill, SB 606. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) in advance of the 2018 Legislative session.

As we discussed, OCWD has been advocating to maximize the credit for potable reuse in the long-term conservation legislation, SB 606 and AB 1668 by Assemblymember Friedman. We believe that potable reuse is the ultimate form of water conservation, reusing the same drop of water multiple times. Potable reuse projects help to prevent water from being wasted to the Pacific Ocean and greatly reduce the need for imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River. In addition, those that have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in potable reuse should see incentives to continue the development of new projects and expansion of existing facilities, to achieve the state's goals for water reuse.

OCWD and other agencies with operational or planned recycled water facilities believe that any conservation policy adopted by the state should provide a credit for potable reuse that is close to the portion of the water portfolios that would be served by those facilities. We believe that a credit of 30 percent of the water use objective would be appropriate. OCWD has also surveyed its groundwater producers to reach this conclusion, as they would need more than the existing 10 percent credit for potable reuse.

Thank you again for meeting with us. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Orange County ratepayers' investment in recycled water infrastructure are given adequate credit in any water conservation policy passed by the Legislature. If we may be of any assistance to you when reviewing water, environmental and/or other pertinent issues, please do not hesitate to contact Legislative Liaison, Alicia Dunkin, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232.

Sincerely,


Roger C. Yoh, P.E.
Director


Cathy Green
Director